

Top cop says gun registry should stay

*by Castanet Staff - Story: 50591
Nov 5, 2009 / 3:00 pm*

Kelowna's top cop says the elimination of the long-gun registry will make Canada less safe.

RCMP Superintendent Bill McKinnon says the B.C. Chiefs support the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police who strongly oppose the Bill.

On Wednesday, MPs voted to repeal the 14-year-old registry, which would eliminate the requirement to register rifles and shotguns and see the destruction of some eight million firearms records.

"We believe the elimination of Canada's national firearms licensing and registration system for rifles and shotguns will make Canada less safe," says McKinnon.

He says they believe it will compromise the ability of law enforcement to deal effectively with gun violence.

"We believe law enforcement will lose access to information that helps us keep our officers and our communities safe."

The registry came into being 14 years ago, due largely to the lobbying efforts of families of the women killed in the 1989 Ecole Polytechnique massacre.

The proposed legislation will now move to an all-party committee for public hearings. After that it will return to the Commons for a final vote before heading back to the Senate.